

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00508 150716Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1865

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0508

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR HABIB, EYES ONLY, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, VS

SUBJ: AIR SERVICES CONTRACT

REF: SAIGON 0342

1. IN ADDITION TO ANSWER TO QUESTION REQUESTED IN LAST SENTENCE, PARA 4, REFTEL MAY I ASK YOU TO HAVE "L" INTERPRET FOR US THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 WHICH, IN SECTION 38 (F), PLACES ALL "CONTRACT EMPLOYEES" UNDER THE OVERALL COUNTRY CEILING OF 3,000 AS OF 1 JULY 1975.

2. IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA, WHERE THE LANGUAGE WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL, THIS REQUIRED ALL PLANES, CREWS, AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL LEAVE CAMBODIA BEFORE NIGHTFALL SO THAT THE PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE COUNTED AS PRESENT IN THE COUNTRY. SINCE PERSONNEL OF AN AMERICAN CONTRACTOR FOR AIR SERVICES IN VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA AFTER 1 JULY CANNOT OVERNIGHT IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE TOO FAR, THE ONLY SUGGESTION THAT IMMEDIATELY OCCURS TO ME IS TO HAVE THE NAVY LOAN US A SMALL CARRIER TO KEEP OUTSIDE THE 12 MILE LIMIT.

3. I HOPE YOU HAVE A BETTER SOLUTION. I WILL AWAIT YOUR ANSWER BEFORE SCHEDULING NEW TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

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